

Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee

August 6, 2011 meeting

Meeting called to order @ 9:02 AM by Chair John Huffman

Members: Pat Murray, James Bahr, John Huffman, Bud Dankers, Leonard Kaanta, Rob Kobel, Scott Berg, Paul Conners, Andy Parmley, Steve Wyckoff, Richard Smith, Bill Roth, James Carpenter, Trent Bellinger, Erv DeWeerd, Terry Laymon, John McNamara

MDNR: Joe Robison, Dave Luukkonen, Barbara Avers, Russ Mason, Nik Kalejs, Dave Shaw, Brian Picolo, Dave Jentoft, Jennifer Kleitch, Tim Payne, Ryan Soulard, Mark Mills, Bruce Barlow

Nomination for Vice Chair: Steve Wyckoff nominated Paul Conner, Second by Jim Carpenter.

Moved to close nominations Jim Carpenter, Second by Steve Wyckoff Passed

Motion by Paul Conner, second by Steve to make Bud Dankers secretary.
Passed 15 in favor. Passed

Joe Robison presented CWAC goals & mission statement: Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee mission: To provide feedback to the DNR-Wildlife Division on existing and proposed waterfowl regulations and wetland management issues. CWAC members must present views and concerns which represent stakeholders from their areas of the state and disseminate information learned at CWAC meetings back to those stakeholders.

M/S Andy Parmley/Scott Berg to accept minutes as corrected. Passed (17)

Russ Mason;

Discussed loss of small game hunters and strategies to retain and recruit more hunters. Focus is to do more for small game and waterfowl hunting and habitat.

Dave Shaw;

Discussed law enforcement report. Funding for enforcement is down. There are 130 conservation officers in MI which a substantial decrease compared to the recent past. Waterfowl enforcement training was held in Sept. Resident local goose populations cause majority of out of season arrests. Hunter harassment issues are leveling off. Flyway looking at increasing possession limits from 2 days to 3 days limit.

Barb Avers;

Waterfowl zone boundary changes. Tabled till March CWAC meeting. FWS extended opportunity for another year. Any change due by May 1, 2012.

Dave L & Barb A;

Goose populations and season considerations.

MVP-down, SJBP-stable, Mi Giant-down

No changes in recommendations for seasons or bag limits.

The North zone regular goose season was established during the early season regulation process because of the desire to utilize a framework opening date exemption allowed in MI and WI, 2 birds Sept 17 thru Oct 31 (45 days)

Barb A & Dave L

Duck populations and season considerations.

Mallard harvest down in 2010 (36%), woodies (18%).

Habitat improved over 2010. Pond count up 62% above LTA.

Mi wetland up from 2010 but 7% below LTA.

Duck populations up 11% from 2010, 35% above LTA (prairie pothole region)

M/S Rob Kobel/Jim Carpenter To send letter to flyway to support increase bag limit for redheads. Passed (17)

Mi/G L mallards down 34% from 2010, 40% below LTA

Bag limits and days same as last year. AHM indicated a liberal framework.

M/S Leonard Kaanta/Rob Kobel to open North Zone Sept 24 thru Nov 18, Nov 24-27 (60 days). Passed (17)

M/S Steve Wycoff/Andy Parmley to follow the federal framework for birds except 1 hen mallard (6 total, 4 mallards, only 1 of which can be a hen, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 pintails, 1 black duck, 1 canvasback) Passed (17)

M/S Jamer Bahr/Terry Laymon to open middle zone Oct1 to Nov 27, and Dec 3-4. Passed (17)

M/S Paul Conner/Scott Berg to open south zone Oct 8 thru Dec 4, Dec 31 thru Jan1. 12 in favor 5 opposed Failed

M/S Bill Roth/Paul Conner to open south zone Oct 8 thru Dec 4, Dec 10-11. 13 in favor 4 opposed Passed.

M/S Bill Roth/Terry Laymon to open middle zone goose Oct 1 thru Nov 8, Nov 24-27, and Dec 3-4. Passed (17)

M/S James Bahr/Terry Laymon to open south zone goose Oct 8 thru Nov13, Dec 3-10. 2 in favor 14 opposed Failed

M/S James Carpenter/Paul Conner to open south zone goose Oct 8 thru Nov 10, Nov 24 thru Dec 4. 15 in favor 1 opposed 1 abstain Passed.

M/S Rob Kobel/Andy Parmley to keep Canada goose limit at same as last year (2 per day regular season)

M/S Rob Kobel/Erv DeWeerd to keep GMU seasons as presented by waterfowl workgroup. Passed (17)

M/S Rob Kobel/Terry Laymon to run late goose season Dec 31 thru Jan 29
14 in favor 3 opposed Passed.

M/S Rob Kobel/James Carpenter to follow Waterfowl workgroup recommendations on brant, ross(1 per day), and snow goose(20 per day, same dates as regular goose season).
Passed (17)

Dave L;

A Great Lakes mallard study has been initiated to investigate habitat and harvest impacts on great lakes mallard populations.

Barb A;

Spinning wing decoy ban @ SRSGA. Results of survey discussed.

Thanks to Harsens Island Waterfowlers for the B&C pizza.

M/S Paul Conner/Andy Parmley to hold next meeting March 3, 2012 at RAM center in Roscommon. Passed (17)

James Carpenter and Bill Roth were presented with an appreciation award for their service on the CWAC.

Adjourned at 2:58 by Andy Parmley/Leonard Kaanta
Passed

Respectfully submitted
Bud Dankers

CWAC Secretary